

Wedding Readings 3

To Be One With Each Other

George Eliot (1819-1880)

What greater thing is there for two human souls
than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen
each other in all labor, to minister to each other
in all sorrow,
to share with each other in all gladness.

Marriage Joins Two People

In The Circle Of It's Love

Edmund O'Neill (b. 1929)

Marriage is a commitment to life,
the best that two people can find and bring out in each other.
It offers opportunities for sharing and growth
that no other relationship can equal.
It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love,
marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships.
A wife and a husband are each other's best friend,
confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic.
And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing,
and the love of the other may resemble
the tender caring of a parent or child.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life.
Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher,
commitment is stronger, even anger is felt more strongly,
and passes away more quickly.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life
is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life,
new experiences, new ways of expressing
a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage,
they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer
than any spoken or written words.
Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people

who love each other and takes a lifetime to fulfill.

Love

Love is a friendship that has caught fire.

It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving.

It is loyalty through good and bad.

It settles for less than perfection,
and makes allowances for human weakness.

Love is content with the present.

It hopes for the future and it doesn't brood over the past.

It's the day-in and day-out chronicle of irritations, problems,
compromises, small disappointments, big victories,
and working toward common goals.

If you have love in your life,

it can make up for a great many things you lack.

If you don't have it, no matter what else there is,

it is not enough, so search for it, ask God for it, and share it!

On your wedding day, as you trade vows

By Nicholas Gordon

On your wedding day, as you trade vows,

No ordinary moment hurries by.

You partake, as far as time allows,

Of something more than time and Earth and sky:

Unknowable, invisible, yet there;

Resplendent to the heart if not the face;

More than both of you, yet less than air;

A transcendental act conferring grace.

Reason might say, How can this be true?

Return then to the heart, for this is love.

In making vows, you make one out of two,

A mystery beyond what words can prove.

Go then as one flesh, one home, one heart:

Each still a whole, yet also now a part.